

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

QUALIFIED PRODUCT POLICY FOR REINFORCING STEEL PRODUCERS

1.0 General:

All producers that desire to be listed on Qualified Product List (QPL 60) must successfully complete an inspection by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) National Transportation Product Evaluation Program (NTPEP).

For more information on this qualification program, visit the NTPEP web site at <http://www.ntpep.org/>. Producers must comply with NTPEP SP01, "Qualification of Highway Product Manufacturers Through the Use of NTPEP Audits," and NTPEP RS, "Evaluation of Reinforcing Steel Manufacturers."

2.0 Initial:

Once NTPEP certification has been obtained, send the following:

- A copy of the NTPEP certificate.
- A copy of the NTPEP audit report and comparison test results from NTPEP designated laboratory.
- A copy of the producer's response to any deficiencies noted by NTPEP.
- A letter requesting inclusion on QPL 60.

to:

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2.1 NTPEP comparison test data will be reviewed according to the following criteria.

2.1.1 NTPEP Comparison:

- The test results from each sample bar shall not vary between laboratories by more than the following:
 - Unit Weight: 1.0%
 - Yield: 10.0%
 - Tensile Strength: 10%
 - Elongation: 4%

- The test results from the average of the three sample bars from each heat shall not vary between laboratories by more than the following:
 - Unit Weight: 1.0%
 - Yield: 4.0%
 - Tensile Strength: 4.0%
 - Elongation: 3.0%

2.1.2 ASTM Specification Compliance:

- All Producer and NTPEP test results shall meet the applicable AASHTO M 31, Type W (ASTM A706) specifications.

2.2 Causes for Rejection:

2.2.1 NTPEP Test Result Comparison

- More than 10% of comparable test results (including individual sample results and average heat results) do not compare within the tolerances listed in Section 2.1.1.

2.2.2 ASTM Specifications

(Note: Failure of two or more individual samples within a heat or failure of the average result within a heat based upon the producer testing or NTPEP testing for any tested value indicates a failure of that heat for the tested value.)

- More than one heat fails the bend test.
- More than two heats fail the deformation height or spacing test.
- More than one heat fails for weight, tensile strength, minimum or maximum yield strength, or elongation.

2.3 At least three of the required 10 sample heats required for NTPEP testing must be ASTM A706 for the producer to be eligible for addition to QPL 60.

- #### 2.3.1
- If three AASHTO M 31, Type W (ASTM A706) rebar samples are not submitted for NTPEP testing, the producer must submit two 30 inch

samples from three individual heats of AASHTO M 31, Type W (ASTM A706) rebar to be tested according to AASHTO T 244 at the SCDOT Office of Materials and Research (OMR). These samples must meet the requirements of AASHTO M 31, Type W (ASTM A706).

- 2.4 When submitted, successful NTPEP certification documentation will be reviewed. If the accompanying test data meet the requirements in Section 2.1 through 2.3, the producer will be added to QPL 60.

3.0 Annual:

- 3.1 The steel producer's mill must maintain NTPEP certification at all times to remain on QPL 60. Producers that do not comply with NTPEP certification program requirements, or who's accompanying test data do not meet the requirements of Sections 2.1 through 2.3 will be taken off the qualified product list. If the SCDOT removes a producer from the qualified product list, the producer must provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that these issues have been resolved to be considered for reinstatement to the list.
- 3.2 The SCDOT has the right to visit and audit any producer's mill and randomly select samples of product and witness testing by the producer.
- 3.3 The SCDOT may require and review additional information, including information related to NTPEP findings, and require additional alterations to testing or documentation before the producer's mill can be added to QPL 60.
- 3.4 In the event that the producer appears to be in compliance with all the requirements of this policy, but the end product does not meet the Department's specifications, then the State Materials Engineer may take steps towards suspending the producer's SCDOT qualification status. If the problem has not been properly corrected within 30 business days, the State Materials Engineer will revoke the qualification status of the producer until the producer demonstrates that all the issues have been properly resolved. Additionally, a producer will be removed from the qualified product list and be required to re-apply as a qualified source if not participating in NTPEP annual testing and auditing or due to failure of NTPEP audits and/or SCDOT verification testing.